

Message Text

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S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 VIENNA 1039

MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, NATO

SUBJECT: MBFR NEGOTIATIONS: AD HOC GROUP MEETING , 5 FEB. 1974

1. BEGIN SUMMARY. IN ITS MEETING ON 5 FEBRUARY, THE AD HOC GROUP, CHAIRED BY FRG REP BEHRENDT COVERED THE FOLLOWING AGENDA: A. ADMINISTRATIVE: APPROVED 7 FEB BRIEFING OF AHG BY COL BRANSON, CHAIRMAN OF NATO MILITARY COMMITTEE SUB-GROUP ON DATA SUPPORT; B. PROCEDURAL: (1) APPROVED DATES FOR EASTER RECESS AND POSTPONED DISCUSSEION WITHN W.P. ON QUESTION OF SUMMER BREAK UNTIL AFTER EASTER RECESS, (2) AGREED ON COLLECTIVE BRIEFING FOR FORTHCOMING VISIT OF NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS; C. BILATERALS: (1) DISCUSSED REPORT CIRCULATED BY UK REP ROSE OF ANGLO-POLISH CONVERSATIONS IN LONDON, (2) AND HEARD REPORT BY NETHERLANDS REP QUARLES ON HIS WEEKEND MEETING IN PRAGUE WITH CZECHOSLOVAK VICE MIN OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS M. RUZEK; D. MULTILATERALS: APPROVED DRAFT OF TALKING POINTS TO BE USED BY US REPS, UK REP AND BELGIAN REP ADRIAENSSEN

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IN THE 6 FEBRUARY DINNER WITH W.P. REPRESENTATIVES.

2. AHG ACCEPTED CAPT BIELDERS PROPOSAL TO RECEIVE A BREIFING BY COL BRANSON, THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SUB-GROUP ON DATA SUPPORT OF THE IMS ON 7 FEBRUARY 1974.

3. BELGIAN REP ADRIAENSSEN REPORTED ON HIS MEETING WITH POLISH REP STRULAK WHO HAD ASKED FOR THE MEETING IN ORDER TO DISCUSS LONG-RANGE PLANS ON FREQUENCY OF PLENARIES AND DATES FOR EASTER AND SUMMER RECESS. STRULAK REPORTED THAT EAST CONTINUED TO INSIST ON TWO PLENARIES A WEEK FOR THE MOMENT, BUT THAT ONE SPEECH PER PLENARY WAS A GOOD WAY TO HANDLE IT. THE POSSIBILITY TO CALL OFF PLENARY IN EVENT NO SPEAKER WAS INSCRIBED WAS ALSO CONSIDERED BY AHG IN ORDER TO CHANGE RYTHMN OF PLENARIES.

AGH ACCEPTED TENTATIVE W.P. PROPOSAL MADE BY STRULAK TO HAVE EASTER BREAK FROM 11 APRIL TO 6 MAY WITH UNDERSTANDING THAT FIRST POST-EASTER PLENARY COULD BE HELD AS LATE AS 10 MAY. STRULAK WAS INTERESTED IN EXPLORING WESTERN REACTION TO LONG SUMMER BREAK TO COMMENCE ON 15 JULY AND END ON 15 SEPTEMBER. STRULAK STRESSED NEED FOR FIRING UP HOTEL RESERVATIONS AND NECESSITY OF EARLY SEPTEMBER CONSULTATIONS OF W.P. DELEGATION MEMBERS WITH THEIR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS AS REASON FOR GETTING EALY AGREEMENT ON DATES. U.S. DEP REP STRESSED THAT AHG HAD ALREADY AGREED DURING PREVIOUS SESSION NOT TO COMMENT TO W.P. ON SUMMER BREAK UNTIL AFTER RETURN FROM EASTER RECESS. U.S. REP UNDERLINED THIS COMMENT BY REFERRING TO FALSE IMPRESSION EXCESSIVELY LONG BREAK COULD MAKE ON U.S. CONGRESS WHICH WOULD IN ALL PROBABILITY TAKE A HARD LOOK AT MBFR DISCUSSIONS JUST BEFORE AND AFTER ITS RECESS IN AUGUST 1974.

4. BEGLIAN REP MENTIONED THAT DURING THE SAME MEETING, STRULAK HAD ALSO DISCUSSED THE WESTERN COMMON CEILING CONCEPT AND PHASING. STRULAK SPOKE OF THE COMMON CEILING, ASKING HOW IT COULD BE MADE ACCEPTABLE TO THE POLISH MILITARY. USING AS AN EXAMPLE THE CURRENT ALLIED POSITION, STRULAK POINTED OUT THAT THE EAST WOULD REDUCE 68,000 WHILE THE WEST WOULD REDUCE ONLY 30,000. STRULAK THEN WONDERED "HOW MANY PERSHING" (SIC) IT WOULD TAKE TO MAKE UP FOR THIS DIFFERENCE IN TROOP STRENGTH. ADRIAENSSEN REPORTED THAT STRULAK HAD MADE THIS SAME REFERENCE TO PERSHING TWICE AND VERLY CLEARLY. ADRIAENSSEN INDICATED IT WAS UNCLEAR WHETHER STRULAK HAD HAPPENED ON THIS IDEA BECAUSE IT WAS
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OBVIOUS IN TERMS OF EASTERN APPROACH OR BEACAUSE OF SOME SPECIFIC KNOWLEDGE. IN DISCUSSING PHASING, STRULAK STATED THAT ALTHOUGH HE COULD SEE SOME ADVANTAGES IN A COMMON CEILING, THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE FREEZE ON "OTHER FORCES", THE RESIDUAL FORCES, PENDING COMPLETION OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE FIRST PHASE. STRULAK ASKED WHAT SORT OF GUARANTEE WOULD THERE BE FOR THE EAST THAT THE WEST WOULD NOT REINFORCE THOSE FORCES NOT BEING REDUCED IN PHASE I.

5. VISIT OF SUBCOMMITTEE OF NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS. CHAIRMAN FRG REP ADVISED AHG THAT HE WAS IN RECEIPT OF A LETTER ADVISING HIM OF FORTHCOMING VISIT OF SUBCOMMITTEE OF NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS TO VIENNA SOMETIME DURING PERIOD 18-22 FEBRUARY. FRG REP STATED THAT HE HAD AGREED TO COORDINATE THE VISIT AND THAT HE PLANNED TO HOST

A DINNER FOR THE DELEGATION WHICH WOULD BE ATTENDED BY THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS FROM COUNTRIES REPRESENTED BY VISITORS AND THE U.S REP SINCE GROUP WAS LEAVING FOR WASHINGTON SUBSEQUENT TO VIENNA VISIT. BEHREND STRESSED THAT GROUP SHOULD BE GIVEN A COLLECTIVE BRIEFING AND THAT HE WOULD SO ADVISE THE DIRECTOR OF STUDIES WHO WAS THE TRIP ORGANIZER. UK REP MENTIONED THAT HE TOO HAD A LETTER WHICH SET THE DATE OF ARRIVAL OF THE MBFR SUBCOMMITTEE OF NATO PARLIAMENTARIANS FOR THE 21ST OF FEBRUARY, AND STATED THAT THE SUBCOMMITTEE WAS MADE UP OF UK, FRG, PORTUGUESE, NETHERLANDS, AND NORWEGIAN REPRESENTATIVES.

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MBFR NEGOTIATIONS FROM US REP MBFR

HE WENT ON TO STRESS THE NEED TO INSIST ON A COLLECTIVE BRIEFING OF THE GROUP- EVEN THOUGH THE GROUP HAD EXPRESSED A PREFERENCE FOR INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL BRIEFINGS. A COLLECTIVE BRIEFING WOULD, OF COURSE, NOT EXCLUDE A BRIEFING OF EACH MEMBER BY HIS OWN DELEGATION.

6. OTHER BILATERALS. UK REP ROSE REPORTED ON ANGLO-POLISH CONVERSATION IN LONDON AT END OF JANUARY (VIENNA 1000). UK REP POINTED OUT TWO COMMENTS MADE BY POLISH VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS BISZTYGA WHICH COULD BE SIGNIFICANT: THE FIRST WAS A STATEMENT

THAT HE EXPECTED TO HAVE TO ACCEPT THE WESTERN TWO-PHASE IDEA IN THE END; AND THE SECOND WAS A REMARK PERHAPS POLISH REPS WERE WORKING ON WRONG INSTRUCTIONS IN TRYING TO DEFEND POLISH GOVERNMENT POSITIONS TO THE END, AND THAT PERHAPS THEY SHOULD BE LOOKING FOR ACCEPTABLE POINTS IN THE ATTITUDE OF THE OTHER SIDE.

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7. AMB QUARLES MENTIONED THAT ON HIS WEEKEND TRIP, 1-3 FEBRUARY, TO PRAGUE HE HAD MET WITH CZECHOSLOVAK VICE MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RUZEK AND GIVEN HIM AN EXPOSE SIMILAR IN FORM AND CONTEXT TO THE AHG'S JANUARY PRESS STATEMENT. QUARLES ADDED THAT HE PARTICULARLY STRESSED ALLIED INSISTENCE ON A COMMON CEILING. QUARLES WENT ON TO SAY HE CONTRASTED WESTERN DYNAMIC APPROACH TO EASTERN STATIC APPROACH, CHARACTERIZING THE EASTERN APPROACH AS AN APPROACH WHICH IS DESIGNED TO CONSOLIDATE AND TO PERPETUATE THE EXISTING SITUATION. THE ALLIES, ON THE OTHER HAND, WANT TO IMPROVE STABILITY AND WILL NOT ACCEPT THE EXISTING IMBALANCE. RUZEK COUNTERED BY EXPRESSING CONCERN OVER APPARENT LACK OF FRG INTEREST IN TROOP REDUCTIONS. HE ALSO MENTIONED THAT MR. SCHLESINGER'S RECENT SPEECH COULD READ AS LESSENING U.S. INTEREST IN SALT TALKS. WHEN QUARLES ASKED WHETHER THE SOVIET INTEREST IN THE TALKS CONTINUED STRONG, RUZEK SAID THAT SINCE THE SALT NEGOTIATIONS WERE BILATERAL TALKS CZECHOSLOVAKIA WAS NOT KEPT INFORMED. NETHERLANDS REP STRESSED THAT CONVERSATION WAS AMIABLE AND CORDIAL THROUGHOUT AND THAT HE KEPT STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF AN EAST-WEST BALANCE TO ACHIEVE TRUE DETENTE.

8. U.S. REP REPEATED PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED AGREEMENT OF SOVIETS TO PARTICIPATE AT A MULTILATERAL DISCUSSION ON 6 FEBRUARY (SEE PARA 6, VIENNA 0929). ON WESTERN SIDE IN ADDITION TO U.S. REPS, UK AND BELGIAN REP WOULD PARTICIPATE, AND EASTERN SIDE WOULD BE REPRESENTED BY SOVIET REPS, POLISH REP, AND CZECHOSLOVAK REP KLEIN. THE AHG THEN TURNED TO DISCUSSION OF DRAFT OF A TALKING POINTS PAPER BASED ON AGREED TACTICS PAPER FOR USE BY THE WESTERN REPS IN THEIR FIRST INFORMAL DINNER DISCUSSION WITH WARSAW PACT REPS, SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY EVENING, FEBRUARY 6. THE CHAIRMAN OPENED DISCUSSION BY REMINDING AHG THAT THE MAJOR ISSUE ON WHICH AGREEMENT WAS NOT REACHED IN EARLIER DISCUSSIONS OF THESE

TALKING POINTS WAS WHETHER TO USE ALL OF THE MATERIAL IN THE TACTICS PAPER MINUS THE PHRASE ON FIXED PERIOD OF TIME, OR ONLY THAT PORTION OF IT REFERRING TO PROCEDURAL UNDERSTANDING MINUS THE CLARIFICATIONS, FOR THE INITIAL INFORMAL MEETING. THE CHAIRMAN, SPEAKING AS FRG REP, ADDED THAT HE PREFERRED TO APPROVE THE ENTIRE MATERIAL RATHER THAN TO APPROACH THIS QUESTION IN PIECEMEAL FASHION.

9. THE UK REP EXPLAINED THAT DURING EARLIER DISCUSSIONS

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OF THE DRAFT TALKING POINTS, IT WAS HIS POSITION THAT THE AHG SHOULD INITIALLY APPROVE ONLY SO MUCH OF THE PAPER IN WHICH THE WEST WOULD EXPLAIN THE BASIC PARAMETERS OF THE LIMITED PROCEDURAL UNDERSTANDING; AND SHOULD STOP SHORT OF ANY CLARIFICATION OF ALLIED VIEWS ON SOVIET AREAS OF CONCERN. THE UK REP CONTINUED, HOWEVER, THAT NOW THAT SOME TIME HAD ELAPSED, AND HE HAD BEEN ABLE TO CONSIDER THE PAPER MORE THOROUGHLY AND TO EXAMINE IT IN DETAIL, HE WAS PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH APPROVING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE PAPER IN ITS ENTIRETY. THUS, ALTHOUGH HE WOULD HAVE A FEW MINOR SUGGESTED CHANGES, HE WOULD BE HAPPY FOR THE AHG TO GIVE AUTHORIZATION FOR ALL THE MATERIAL IN THE DRAFT TALKING POINTS PAPER TO BE USED.

10. THERE BEING NO REMAINING OPPOSING VIEWS ON HOW MUCH OF THE PAPER TO APPROVE, THE AHG THEN APPROVED THE TALKING POINTS FOR USE BY WESTERN REPRESENTATIVES ON FEBRUARY 6.

11. FOLLOWING APPROVAL OF THE TALKING POINTS, THE GREEK REP (DOUTAS) ASKED WHO FROM THE WEST WOULD ATTEND THE DINNER. UPON REITERATION BY THE US REP THAT THE ATTENDEES WOULD BE REPRESENTATIVES OF THE US, THE UK, AND BELGIUM, THE GREEK REP STATED THAT HE WOULD APPRECIATE IF IN THE FUTURE THE AD HOC GROUP COULD ON EACH OCCASION BE INFORMED SPECIFICALLY OF THE ATTENDEES AT THESE DINNERS. THE GREEK REP CONTINUED THAT HIS AUTHORITIES WISHED TO BE INFORMED IN ORDER TO BE IN A POSITION TO ASK, HOWEVER INELEGANTLY, THAT GREECE BE REPRESENTED AMONG THE GUESTS AT ONE OF THESE AFFAIRS IF IT APPEARS THAT MATTERS BEARING SIGNIFICANTLY ON GREECE ARE TO BE DISCUSSED. BELGIAN DEPREP SAID HE WOULD PARTICIPATE IN SCHEDULED MEETING WITH SOVIETS ON G
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